

Application No. 09/897,823

by the first Preliminary Amendment submitted on 7 August 2001. Upon entry of the present amendment, the total number of pending claims will be thirty eight.

REMARKS

No new matter is added by this response.

Respectfully submitted,

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25 June 2002

Customer No. 27752



REPLACEMENT PARAGRAPH IN CLEAN FORM

SUBMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH 37 CFR 1.121(b)(1)(ii)
IN SECOND PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT OF 25 JUNE 2002

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please delete and replace the last paragraph beginning on page 8 of the application as filed with the following rewritten paragraph:

Subcl
The outer leg cuff 120 may be joined to the backsheet 26, the topsheet 24, to both the backsheet 26 and the topsheet 24, and/or to any other element of the diaper 20 by any attachment means known in the art which is suitable for the materials involved. For example, the attachment means may include any of those listed above in reference to the backsheet 26. The outer leg cuff 120 preferably is joined over at least the majority of at least one of its surfaces to another element of the diaper 20, such that only a minor edge or flap of the outer leg cuff 120 remains substantially free. In some embodiments, the outer leg cuff 120 preferably is joined over substantially the entirety of at least one of its surfaces to another element of the diaper 20, such that only a minimal edge or flap of the outer leg cuff 120 remains substantially free. For example, in some embodiments, the width of the free edge or flap may be about 5 mm or less, in some embodiments, the free width may be about 2 mm or less and, in some embodiments, the free width may be about 1 mm or less. The practical minimum width of the free edge or flap may be about 0.01 mm.

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REPLACEMENT PARAGRAPH MARKED UP TO SHOW CHANGES
SUBMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH 37 CFR 1.121(b)(1)(iii)
IN SECOND PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT OF 25 JUNE 2002

IN THE SPECIFICATION

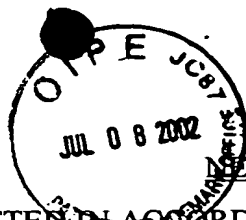
Marked up version of replacement last paragraph beginning on page 8 of the application as filed:

The outer leg cuff 120 may be joined to the backsheet 26, the topsheet 24, to both the backsheet 26 and the topsheet 24, and/or to any other element of the diaper 20 by any attachment means known in the art which is suitable for the materials involved. For example, the attachment means may include any of those listed above in reference to the backsheet 26. The outer leg cuff 120 preferably is joined over at least the majority of at least one of its surfaces to another element of the diaper 20, such that only a minor edge [130] or flap of the outer leg cuff 120 remains substantially free. In some embodiments, the outer leg cuff 120 preferably is joined over substantially the entirety of at least one of its surfaces to another element of the diaper 20, such that only a minimal edge [130] or flap of the outer leg cuff 120 remains substantially free. For example, in some embodiments, the width of the free edge [130] or flap may be about 5 mm or less, in some embodiments, the free width may be about 2 mm or less and, in some embodiments, the free width may be about 1 mm or less. The practical minimum width of the free edge [130] or flap may be about 0.01 mm.

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SUBMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH 37 CFR 1.121(c)(1)(i)
IN SECOND PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT OF 25 JUNE 2002

CLAIMS

Sub-E1
23. (New) The absorbent article of claim 1 further comprising at least one outer leg cuff comprising an incrementally stretched laminate having an elastic extensibility of at least about 60 percent when the absorbent article is elastically extended laterally by the 5 kg lateral spreading force.

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24. (New) The absorbent article of claim 23 wherein at least a portion of the outer leg cuff is wrapped over at least one of the portions of one of the side edges defining one of the leg openings.

25. (New) The absorbent article of claim 24 wherein the outer leg cuff is folded such that a free edge of the outer leg cuff is disposed adjacent to an inner surface of the containment assembly.

26. (New) The absorbent article of claim 25 wherein at least a portion of the outer leg cuff is continuous with the backsheet.

27. (New) The absorbent article of claim 16 further comprising at least one outer leg cuff comprising an incrementally stretched laminate having an elastic extensibility of at least about 60 percent when the absorbent article is elastically extended laterally by the 5 kg lateral spreading force.

28. (New) The absorbent article of claim 27 wherein at least a portion of the outer leg cuff is wrapped over at least one of the portions of one of the side edges defining one of the leg openings.

29. (New) The absorbent article of claim 28 wherein the outer leg cuff is folded such that a free edge of the outer leg cuff is disposed adjacent to an inner surface of the containment assembly.

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30. (New) The absorbent article of claim 29 wherein at least a portion of the outer leg cuff is continuous with the backsheet.

31. (New) An absorbent article for fitting about a wearer's body to contain excreta and/or bodily exudates, comprising:

a containment assembly having a front waist region, a back waist region opposed to the front waist region, a crotch region disposed between the front waist region and the back waist region, side edges comprising portions defining leg openings when the absorbent article is closed, leg opening margins, a topsheet, a backsheet, and an absorbent core disposed at least partially between the topsheet and the backsheet, and

at least one outer leg cuff comprising an incrementally stretched laminate.

32. (New) The absorbent article of claim 31 wherein at least a portion of the outer leg cuff is wrapped over at least one of the portions of one of the side edges defining one of the leg openings.

33. (New) The absorbent article of claim 32 wherein the outer leg cuff is folded such that a free edge of the outer leg cuff is disposed adjacent to an inner surface of the containment assembly.

34. (New) The absorbent article of claim 33 wherein at least a portion of the outer leg cuff is continuous with the backsheet.

35. (New) A pre-closed absorbent article for fitting about a wearer's body to contain excreta and/or bodily exudates, comprising:

a containment assembly having a front waist region, a back waist region opposed to the front waist region, a crotch region disposed between the front waist region and the back waist region, side edges comprising portions defining leg openings when the absorbent article is closed, leg opening margins, a topsheet, a backsheet, and an absorbent core disposed at least partially between the topsheet and the backsheet, and

at least one outer leg cuff comprising an incrementally stretched laminate.

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36. (New) The absorbent article of claim 35 wherein at least a portion of the outer leg cuff is wrapped over at least one of the portions of one of the side edges defining one of the leg openings.

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2 37. (New) The absorbent article of claim 36 wherein the outer leg cuff is folded such that a free edge of the outer leg cuff is disposed adjacent to an inner surface of the containment assembly.

38. (New) The absorbent article of claim 37 wherein at least a portion of the outer leg cuff is continuous with the backsheet.
